

# A Skier's Guide to the Essay (otherwise known as The Essay Rubric)

	Ripping A	Cruising B - C	Windshield Wiping C - D	Yard Sale F
Purpose  25 Points	-Purpose is crystal clear from the <b>title</b> onward. - <b>Thesis</b> is present, and has a brisk air of <b>complexity</b> to it—my brain hums a little after reading it (in a good way). -You <b>never stray</b> from the promise of your thesis.	-Purpose is clear, but I might have a question or two as to what the essay is about. -Thesis is present, but it lacks in the complexity department. -For the most part you stick to the promise of your thesis.	-Purpose is clunky—one minute you're talking about your topic, the next you're talking about the art of origami. -You stray from your thesis so much, that your thesis is a lie.	-Purpose—what? -Thesis—who? -If you had a thesis (and you most likely don't) it was about the origin of funk music, and the rest of your essay was about gouda cheese.
Organization  25 Points	-From your introduction on, your information is organized <b>logically</b> and <b>follows any pattern</b> set up by your thesis. -You move <b>chronologically</b> through the piece of literature towards your conclusion.	-You have lapses in the logical momentum of your essay. -There are times when it's hard to follow your thought process. -Only minor lapses in following the chronological order of the piece o' literature.	-Like someone wiping down a mountain at a slow pace, there is little logic in the twists and turns you're making. -You're like the person who is impossible to follow and pass on the mountain—a skier on the verge of a yard sale!	-Not sure that you're familiar with the concept of logical thought. -Logic, this is the writer. Writer, this is logic. Please get to know each other.
Details  25 Points	-Every <b>example</b> from the piece of literature you're examining is <b>specific</b> . -You opt for <b>quotes</b> instead of paraphrasing. -Quotes are <b>analyzed</b> and <b>examined thoroughly</b> . It is clear how your <b>quote supports your thesis</b> .	-You have plenty of examples from the piece o' literature. -You mostly opt for quotes instead of paraphrasing your examples. -Quotes are generally analyzed. It is mostly clear how your quotes support your thesis.	-You have some examples to back up your thesis. But you rely on generalizations at times. -You take the lazy way out, like most wipers, and only paraphrase your examples. -Examples have little to nothing to do with your thesis.	-Did you read the book? -No, seriously, your details are mostly a summary of the summary given on Sparknotes.com. -I'm left a bit dumber after reading your paper and need to read a 'Ripping' essay immediately.
Voice/Tone  25 Points	-Your grammar is so tight I never once think about your writing ( <b>one</b> or <b>two minor</b> errors). -Your writing is filled with engaging <b>diction</b> and you take advantage of <b>sentence variety</b> by using the vast array of punctuation at your disposal. -A model for <b>MLA</b> format!	-Your grammar is generally solid, but you miss key mistakes in your writing (three to five errors—mostly minor). -You attempt some engaging diction and sentence variety, but for the most part your sentences are the same length. -You generally nail the MLA format.	-Grammar is as solid as your grandmother's jello salad (six to ten errors—some pretty major). -You don't attempt to use any diction you learned after middle school. -All of your sentences are the same length and your voice is monotone like Ben Stein's.	-Your grammar is more closely related to Swahili than English (ten or more errors). -I can't even get to your conclusion because your writing is so atrocious. -No voice is ever established. -Reading your essay is like skiing on a mountain with no snow—think about it...get it?